

## Speaking of Jesus Revelation 4-5

### **I. Intro**

#### **What is stunning to you?**

Stunning means something that is pleasing or beautiful.

It probably falls into the category of nature, people, art, achievement.

**Nature: The Grand Canyon...**

**People: Bride**

**Art: Musicians, Sistine chapel**

**Achievements: Sports/wars/work...**

I asked Sydney and she said I needed to add a category of food... Meals that are stunning...

There is a simple truth about what is stunning-beautiful and pleasing to us:

**We speak about what we are stunned by.**

What if, there is an ultimate reality of which this world is just a broken dim reflection?

What if the things that are stunning to us on this earth reveal a desire in us for something that is more stunning, more beautiful and more pleasing and more excellent?

Today I want to show us that there is something more stunning. There is something more beautiful. There is something more pleasing. There is something more excellent.

In the book of Revelation, the apostle John writes about a vision of God and Jesus that is stunning.

And my hope today is that you will be moved by the richness, the infinite value and the infinite worth of God in such a way that you will be stunned by Him in a way that you never have been before... and it will lead you to speak of this God and Savior.

So here is what we are going to do today. We are going to look at these two chapters and allow ourselves to be stunned by the creator, allow ourselves to be awed by the savior, and then process a problem we have.

So, the stunning creator, the stunning savior, and our problem.

### **1. Revelation 4 – The stunning creator**

How many times in your life of you said... 'I don't like not knowing what's going to happen. I just want to know'. Maybe it was in regards to a job, or a pregnancy. Cancer or a marriage proposal. We hate ambiguity.

God know that about us. And so He gave us a revelation of how things would turn out, through the apostle John. And in chapter 4, God gives John a glimpse of Heaven.

#### **Revelation 4:1-2**

And so Jesus welcomes John into heaven, into the throne room of God.

Now here the description and of God on the throne.

#### **Revelation 4:3-6a**

So we have here God in all His beauty surrounded by 24 thrones with elders. It may be angels or people representing the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles.

And the 7 spirits of God should be understood to represent the Holy Spirit and His seven-fold character.

And the vision continues...

### **Revelation 4:6b-8**

There are lots of opinions about the four living creatures, but what I want to point out is that because of God and His beauty and His excellence, they never cease to say "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

That God, is so majestic, so stunning, so pleasing, so excellent, there are 4 creatures around Him that never stop calling Him, Holy, Holy, Holy...

And as they are doing this there is a picture of active worship of God...

### **Revelation 4:9-11**

And the worship we see here is very specific. They are worshipping God for His creation.

Have you ever worshipped God for His excellent creation?

Let's just take a moment here to think through God and His creation... so we can grasp how stunning God is.

Let's go back to elementary science if we can for a minute and think through the vastness of the universe.

Let's start with the earth. The earth, if you were to travel, in one big circle... it is about 25,000 miles

Now a Jet Liner, so take your Southwest plane... if you wanted to fly around the earth... a jet flies around 600 miles per hour, so if you divided 25,000 miles by 600 mph... it would take 41.6 hours, or let's just say 40 hours to travel around the earth.

Now, let's talk about the sun. So the sun is the size of 109 earths. So to grasp how big that is, let's do the same thing.

If you were to travel around the Sun in a big circle... it is 2.7 million miles.

So if we were going to take our Southwest plane... fly around the sun at 600 miles per hour... that equals 4500 hours... 4500 divided by 24 equals 187.5 days

187 days is more than Half a year!

Now... can you guys indulge me for one more minute... Let's take this object lesson one step further...

Let's take this grapefruit to represent the sun. And we are going to use this string to represent Pluto.

So on average... Pluto is 3.7 Billion miles from the Sun. So this rope is 37 feet, which means each foot represents 100 million miles.

The earth is on average 90 million miles from the sun... so about here.

Now... listen to this... the closet star to us, besides the sun is Alpha Centauri. In order to reach that star, you would need to stretch this string all the way to San Juan, Puerto Rico...

And so the elders are crying out!! **Revelation 4:11**

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created!

My hope today is that you will be moved by the richness, the infinite value and the infinite worth of God in such a way that you will be stunned by Him in a way that you never have been before.

## **2. Revelation 5 – The stunning savior**

Now the scene continues... God is on His throne...

### **Revelation 5:1-4**

So God has a scroll, which is going to reveal the rest of History, the restoration of all things.

But John weeps because there is no one worthy to open the scroll. There is no one who can approach God in His Holiness, His majesty, His beauty, His excellence.

And so stop for a second... if we were writing this story, what kind of hero would we bring on the scene?

We would want a Hercules. Some powerful, magnificent, majestic creature....

### **Revelation 5:5-7**

And so in the midst of John's desperation, the elder stops John. Don't cry...  
But there is one... The Lion of Judah...  
But it is not the Hercules we expect. It is not the strong, powerful hero.  
No... It is the slain Lamb.

### **Revelation 5:8-14**

And then, when the Lamb is revealed. When the Lamb takes the scroll there is massive worship! Massive worship.  
First the elders sing a new song. Because Jesus opened the scrolls, and ransomed mankind, and made them heirs!  
And then with the angels numbers myriads and thousands of thousands worshipped.  
And then every creature worshipped.

Why was there such a vast response of worship?!

It's moving because He was the only one.

The hero will come on the scene... He is the ultimate hero.

Can we go back to the stunning question?

Our hearts are moved by the ultimate hero because there is a desire in us for something that is more stunning, more beautiful and more pleasing and more excellent.

Are you dissatisfied with life right now? Are you bored? Are you stuck?

Your dissatisfaction is a sign of the greatness of the soul, the sign of what a magnificent scale you were build upon.  
You desire transcendence and nothing else will satisfy. You want intimacy with the Infinite...

And that was made possible... because of a Lamb. A Lamb that was slain.

And so we sing a new song, **Revelation 5:9-10**

My hope today is that you will be moved by the richness, the infinite value and the infinite worth of God in such a way that you will be stunned by Him in a way that you never have been before.

Now... we have a problem don't we...

### **3. The Problem: We don't experience God as stunning.**

Our problem is that we are not stunned by the Holy Creator God and the Savior of our souls.

Why is that?

Well, I'm sure there are lots of reasons. Let me give you two that stand out to me in this passage...

#### **a. We don't envision the vision.**

We are visual people.

Remember I asked you what was stunning to you? Nature, people, art, achievements, and food!

I showed us all pictures, why? Because we like to see them to be stunned by them.

That is why these two chapters are so important.

We need to read them to have a vision of our stunning God.

Listen to the exhortation of Paul to the church of Colossae...

#### **Colossians 3:1-4**

Our problem is that we don't think about the vision. We don't allow ourselves to be moved by this picture, to meditate on it. Maybe this week, each morning when you get to work, or before you wake your kids up for school, take a moment to read Revelation 4-5 and sing the two songs in this passage to your God.

#### **b. We are not moved like John in relation to our unworthiness.**

John was in a state of desperation. He was weeping loudly because there was no one worthy to open the scroll.

Not the angels, the creatures, the elders... No one was worthy.

You know in our Western culture we focus so much on God's love. And God is love.  
But we don't often spend time thinking about how Holy God is.

When we are wronged we get so mad! We live in the midst of an outrage culture! We are outraged by everything!  
We view ourselves as victims.  
But when it comes to God... we have no concept of how we have wronged Him.  
You know... there are some of us in this room, but probably think... you know, I could open the scroll...

I think we are prone to acknowledge our sinfulness in comparison to others, but not in relation to a Holy God.  
We compare ourselves to others... and so we have issues and problems... but we don't like to think about God and His holiness because it would reveal how unworthy we are.

In **Exodus 33:18-23** Moses has this amazing interaction with God where He asks to see God's glory.  
To see all that God is.  
And God says... If I showed you my face it would kill you. Why?  
Because He is so wonderful and stunning and Holy it would kill us.  
We are like Moses and we don't realize that God will kill us.

But maybe today that would change. Maybe today we would catch a glimpse of the Holy Creator and the Sacrificing Savior and we would be stunned by them in a way we had never been. What would happen?!

### **What does it look like when we experience God as stunning?**

#### **a. Active worship.**

**The immensity of His worth is reflected in the intensity of your worship. -Piper**  
For those who see God for who He is, worship.

#### **b. And not only will we worship... We will speak about what is stunning to us.**

And what will we speak about?  
We will speak about the stunning Creator! The one who created this universe.  
We will speak about it as the hero who came. But not the hero who came as Hercules, the hero who came as a lamb and died. The one who came through weakness, not strength. The one who took unworthy people and made them heirs.

Can I ask you again... **What is stunning to you?**

My hope for us today church, is that we will be moved by the richness, the infinite value and the infinite worth of God in such a way that we will be stunned by Him in a way that we never have been before... and it will lead us to speak of this God and Savior.

### **4. Conclusion**

I want to invite you now, to join me in responding in active worship.  
{Communion explanation}

Think about the lamb that was slain and what it cost.  
It's a stunning sacrifice.

And let's allow our movement to be an active expression of worship.  
And when we sing together with the band... let's allow our song to be an active expression of worship to the Creator God and the Lamb that was slain!